Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

H (4/c (-7~3)

In response to the Official Action dated July 2, 2002, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph spanning page 4, line 20 through page 5, line 8, and replace it with the attached replacement paragraph:

Identification of transcription factors which interact with the E-pal element was undertaken by means of a one-hybrid (-90/-70)sequence approximation using the mouse E-pal oligomerised to direct the expression of the HIS3 gene of S. cerevisiae as bait and a cDNA gene library of NIH3T3 fused to the GAL4 activation domain as a prey. A total of 130 clones were isolated, capable of interacting with (and directing the transcription of the reporter gene HIS3) the construction containing the native E-pal element; they did not recognise the mutated oligomeric element. This mutated form of the E-pal element contains 2 modified bases (TT instead of GC) which eliminate the E2 box. This mutated form has been described as being responsible for abolishing the repressor effect in the E-